

PLUS RESULTS

PLUS, like MAYA, returns the patents in ranked descending order of closeness (best one first). However, when the numbers are returned by East and West searches, they are re-ranked numerically. We recommend that examiners print out their _LIST.txt file for a handy reference to consult while looking at results on line. That file shows the patents in their original relevance ranking, best one first.

Caveat: The _QUAL.txt file shows the numbers in original ranking, too, but also gives their "closeness" quotient. If the top numbers all have the same quotient, they may be all nearly equally good.

Information provided by Dave Trafton 02/09/00

How to Use Your PLUS Results:

For Examiners

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1. What is PLUS?

PLUS utilizes a component of the BRS search system at the PTO. It accepts a word frequency list of the words in a patent application and performs a search for the most closely related patents. This type of search is known as "QBE", or Query by Example. A patent application or any other disclosure, including a patent, provides the example that is searched for.

There are considerable advantages to PLUS searching:

- You do not have to expend undue effort preparing the searches. A search can be performed before you even review the application – a true "PLUS".
- The results tend to be quite good. The system appears to perform somewhat better than the MAYA search system previously available from Electronic Data Systems.
- PLUS searches return a wealth of classification information. By looking at the provided summary of classifications for found patents, you can develop a useful search strategy for manual or other automated searching.
- The patent numbers returned to you are provided in a text file in a format ready to copy and paste into a WEST or EAST search window for exceptionally easy review.

There are some limitations of this PLUS system:

- You have to deliver your application file to the PLUS search specialist to be scanned and submitted for searching.
- Words are searched for out of context.
- Not every word submitted will be searched for. There is a stop word list of nearly 100 words that is used by the system to remove those words from the search. The process additionally selects only up to 128 of the remaining words to use in its search.
- Additional word limitations are imposed by the present interface. If you want to search for words having fewer than 2 or more than 50 characters in them, or words with numbers in them, you must designate them as "Manual Keywords" on your order form.
- Patents containing more different words being sought are given a higher "rank", whereas the total numbers of each search word appearing in a patent have a smaller effect on ranking. It is possible that very large patents will rank higher than an actual patent being searched if the word list is very small and the word repetitions in the patents are very frequent.
- * • Only words appearing in the Title, Abstract, Background and Brief Summary of an application are used in formulating search queries. This has been found to yield the best results.
- Currently, searches take about 20 minutes to perform on the PTO computer. About 20 searches per hour can be performed during hours of low usage of the computer for other purposes. Search times are expected to drop substantially as equipment and processes are upgraded.

2. How and when do I get my search results?

Our goal is to provide search results the next working day. This depends upon system performance and search backlog. The results will be contained in 6 text files that will be provided on a diskette returned with the application.

3. How do I use my PLUS search results?

- Insert the diskette into your workstation's a: drive and view the files with Notepad or other word processor.
- The `nnnnnnnn_WDS.txt` file contains the word frequency list submitted to BRS for searching.
- The `nnnnnnnn_QUAL.txt` file is provided because it shows the "closeness factor" supplied by PLUS for each patent. You will probably not need to use this file.
- The file named `nnnnnnnn_LIST.txt` contains a list of the patent numbers in their original ranking as provided by PLUS. You should print this file because it may be useful for notations and for utilizing the ranking in your evaluation. Other PTO search systems return patents ranked in numerical order – not necessarily order of relevance. This document may serve as a search record.
- Print out the file named `nnnnnnnn_CLS.txt`. This document can serve as a guide to further searching by indicating the classes and subclasses most pertinent to your application disclosure.
- Transfer patent numbers from PLUS into a WEST or EAST search window as follows:

Using WEST

- (a) Start up WEST and go to the Edit User Profile screen. Use the following settings:

Number of Documents to be Displayed	50
Default Database	US Patents Full-Text Database
Default Printer	(whatever)
Search Plurals	OFF
Relevance Ranking	OFF
Search History Order	Descending
Show Search Details	OFF
Default Search Operator	OR
Display Format	US Patents Full-Text Database:
Review (REV)	

- (b) Click on Save.
- (c) Select Freeform Search.
- (d) Open the file named `nnnnnnnn_WEST.txt` in Notepad. This file contains the returned patents in 50-patent search query format for WEST. WEST can accept up to 100 patent numbers in a search query, but remember that the ranking is lost, and the first 50 will be closer than the next 50, and so forth. Copy the first group of 50 numbers including parentheses and the ".wku." onto the clipboard by highlighting it with the mouse and pressing Ctrl-C.
- (e) Paste your query copied from Notepad into the Term window by pressing Ctrl-V.
- (f) For a neat summary of each patent, the REV display format has been found to be very convenient. You can type in any format you choose, but be wary of requesting a full display of many patents because downloading them all takes a long time and the browser might fail if more than 50 large patents are requested at once.
- (g) Select Search.
- (h) Click on the resulting L# link.
- (i) When the patent data are displayed, you may jump from one to the next by using Netscape's Edit/Find in page command and typing in "Document ID" then selecting Find next.
- (j) To take a detailed look at any patent that looks interesting, just click on the Full button at the bottom of the review text.

The following screens illustrate some key points in using WEST with your PLUS results.

WEST

WEST

Main Menu

■ WEST Database Functions

- [Freeform Search](#)
- [Structured Search](#)
- [Dictionary Search](#)
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■ Classification Infobase Resources

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■ Database Support Functions

- [Derwent Manuals](#)

Help

FAQ

Comments

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Logout

WEST Main Screen

WEST

WEST

Freeform Search

Database:

Term:

05764889 05737582 05758314 05737421
05774551 05768379 05742756 05736932
05745754 05752246) .wku.

Display Documents in Display Format:

Generate: ☐ Hit List ☐ Hit Count ☐ Image

Search

Clear

Help

Logout

Main Menu

Show S Numbers

Edit S Numbers

WEST Search Input Screen

WEST

Edit WEST User Pr file for User: *west08*

Number of Documents to be Displayed

Default Database

Default Printer

Search Plurals

Relevance Ranking

Search History Order

Show Search Details

Default Search Operator

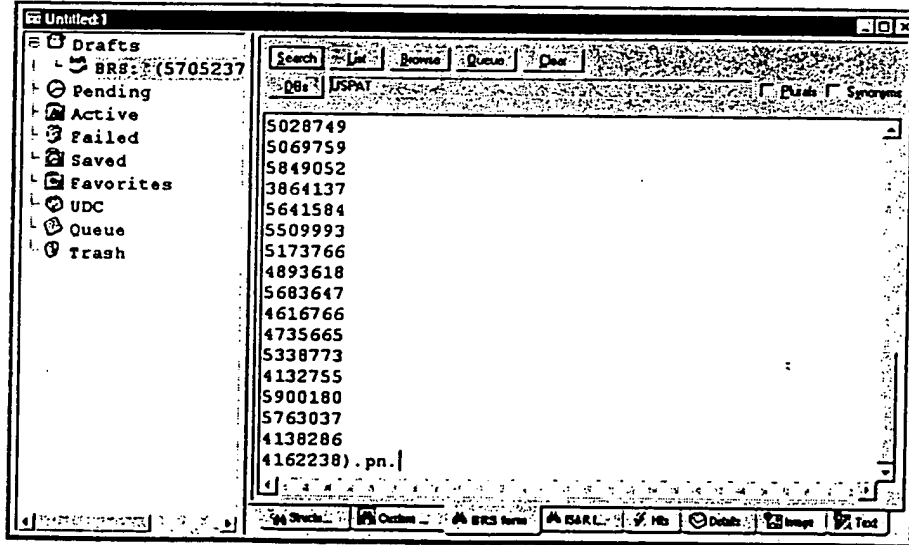
DB Name	Display Format	Search Limit
US Patents Full-Text Database	<input type="text" value="Review (REV)"/>	<input type="text" value="[NONE]"/>
JPO Abstracts Database	<input type="text" value="Title (TI)"/>	<input type="text" value="[NONE]"/>
EPO Abstracts Database	<input type="text" value="Title (TI)"/>	<input type="text" value="[NONE]"/>
IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins	<input type="text" value="Title (TI)"/>	<input type="text" value="[NONE]"/>
Derwent World Patents Index	<input type="text" value="Title (TI)"/>	<input type="text" value="[NONE]"/>
All Foreign Patent Abstracts Databases (JPAB + EPAB + DWPI)	<input type="text" value="Title (TI)"/>	<input type="text" value="[NONE]"/>
All Databases	<input type="text" value="Review (REV)"/>	<input type="text" value=""/>

WEST Profile Screen

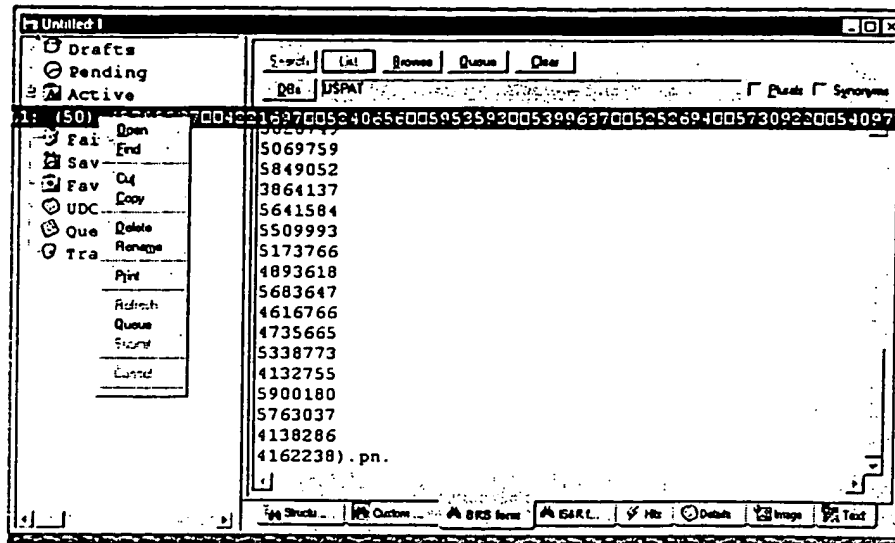
Using EAST

- (a) After starting the EAST application, select the **BRS** form from the tabs at the bottom of the forms window. This form will accept up to 50 patent numbers at a time.
- (b) Open the file named *nnnnnnnnn_EAST.txt* in Notepad. This file contains the patent numbers formatted into groups of not more than 50 and including the search command syntax. Select a block of patent numbers including the "(" at the beginning and the ").pn." at the end of the block. Paste the selection into the form window by right-clicking the mouse on the **BRS** window and selecting **Paste** from the menu.
- (c) Click the mouse on **List**. A search for the numbers will show under the **Pending** label in the left column in the EAST window. When the search is done, an **L** number will appear under the **Active** label in the left column.
- (d) Right-click the mouse on the **L #** returned and click **Open**.
- (e) You might arrange a convenient window arrangement that allows you to see the list of patent numbers along with the text and/or image of each patent. Then, you can select the patent from the list and view it in the text and image windows. To arrange this, select **Window** from the menu, then **Browser Layout Option**. Choose the window arrangement that suits you best. Then, click on a window and from the **View** menu choose **Details View**. This will display the patent number list in that window. Select another window for text, and from the **View** menu choose **Text View**. For image display in a selected window, from the **View** menu choose **Image View**.

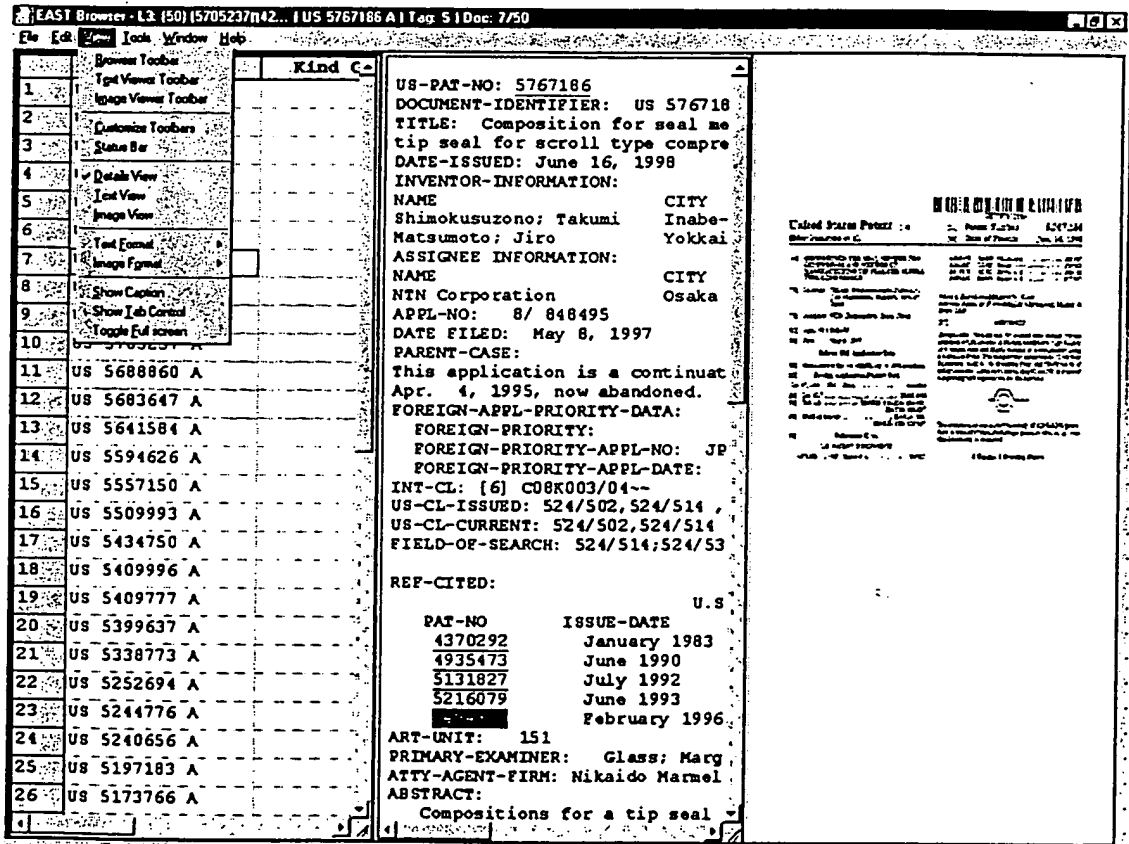
You will probably develop ways of using EAST that are more efficient for your tastes, but the described method should get you started. The following screens illustrate some of the key points.



EAST BRS Format P/N Entry Screen



Select the L# to View



Choosing Display Content for A Window